

Секция «Английский язык и право (на английском языке)»

Amendments in Russian intellectual property law after Russia has joined the WTO

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On 22 August 2012 Russia became a member of the World Trade Organization by signing the **Marrakesh Agreement** which led to some specific commitments one of which is compliance with the **Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**. During the preliminary negotiations with WTO members, the working group on Russia's accession to the WTO prepared a special *Report*. In accordance with the second paragraph of the **Marrakesh Agreement** Russia committed itself to address gaps and make some appropriate amendments in appliance with the provisions of the *Report*.

This research shows the most important aspects related to the implementation of Russia's commitments to bring national legislation in line with the WTO requirements.

1. The right to remuneration became the part of the exclusive rights
2. Prohibition of the collective management organizations to manage the rights of authors and other persons without a contract
3. Abolition of a reservation to Article 18 of the Berne Convention
4. Establishment of uniform patent fees for residents and non-residents
5. The correct interpretation of the rules on digital rights management
6. Precedence of the trademark before the domain name
7. Providing legal protection of well-known trademarks without complying with formalities
8. Protection of appellations of origin, regardless of its registration in the country of origin of the appellation
9. Interpretation of exceptions to the subject of patent rights
10. Distribution of the rules on the protection of trade secrets in the procedure of registration of agrochemicals
11. Distribution of the rules on the protection of trade secrets in the procedure of registration of medicines
12. Provision of effective protection the interests of rights holders
13. An immediate end to actions of violators and effective bringing to justice
14. Amount of the guarantee required by the customs authorities from the right holder, should not interfere with treatment for the protection of rights
15. Continuation of taking measures to combat piracy in the manufacture of optical media
16. Continuation of taking measures to combat piracy in the Internet
17. Criminal liability will depend on market conditions

On 1 January 2015 some amendments of the fourth part of Russian Civil Law Code (which includes intellectual property regulation) entered into force and some amendments are to be

made in near future.